

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING COMPATIBILITY BETWEEN  
DIFFERENT TRANSCEIVERS IN A MULTI-PAIR COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

5  
ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

10 A system and method are disclosed that provide for compatibility between different generations of transceivers, such as Gigabit Ethernet transceivers. According to the invention, a novel transceiver is provided that includes a physical layer entity (PHY) comprising a physical coding sublayer (PCS) and a physical medium attachment (PMA) sublayer. In one embodiment, the PHY is designed to switch the PCS encoding/decoding scheme to a legacy-based encoding/decoding scheme in a situation where  
15 it is determined that the remote transceiver in communication with the novel transceiver is transmitting data according to a legacy-based scheme.

DWR/cah

20 CAH PAS292846.1--12/20/00 2:24 PM